

Let us start this new century with a renewed commitment, with renewed vigor, with a commonsense approach; yes, with more accountability and reform, with real dollars to match, targeted in a way that will really bring the promise of this great Nation to each child, whether they live in West Virginia or Louisiana. We can do it. We have the money to do it. The question is, Do we have the will? I believe we do. With the President's leadership, with bipartisan support, we can find the will to do right by our children in their schools and in their communities.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Louisiana. I share her enthusiasm for education. I am grateful that she is a Senator who is using her foresight and vision and talents to advance the cause of education.

#### TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER TO WORK DAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, the Senator from West Virginia should note what for all of us is a special day on Capitol Hill. It is Take Your Daughter to Work Day. While my own precious little 3½-year-old daughter is not with me today because she is not quite old enough to appreciate the significance of this day, I do have nine beautiful little girls from Louisiana whom I have adopted for the day and a whole Girl Scout troop here from Capitol Hill, Troop 4062. I will submit their names for the RECORD.

I want the RECORD to reflect that they were here today working with us to help make this Senate and this country a better place. I wish them all much success. I am glad that so many of our Senators and staff invited the young girls today to share this experience with us.

I thank the Senator for yielding the time and ask unanimous consent to print the names in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

##### LOUISIANA GIRLS

Jillian Willard, Tricia Boh, Caitlin LeBlanc, Kristin Scianna, Katie Scianna, Brooke Holmes, Katherine Klimitas, Adriana Klimitas, Ashlyn Wink, Rebecca Wink.

##### GIRL SCOUTS—TROOP 4062

Vicki Faling, Savannah Jameson, India Teal, Daniella Harvey, Skye Dantzler, Sabina Tarnowka, Danielle Flynn, Sharae Hugley, Casey Beasley, Maeve Wiegand, Blaire Laney, Sybil Bullock, Moredia Akwara, Samantha Snow Marsh, Clara Wiegand, Lakisha Campbell.

Troop leader: Sandy Lelan.

Assistant troop leader: Connie Jameson.

Mothers of Girl Scouts: Carrie Campbell, Mary Ann Snow.

#### THE ROLE OF TELEVISION

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to discuss an issue that I have addressed several times be-

fore on this floor—that is, the role of television in the lives of the American people. Today's television would have you believe that the television program "How to Marry a Millionaire" is a guide on how to find the perfect mate; that "Temptation Island" is a guide to stable relationships; that Al Bundy is a paragon of parental nurturing, while his wife, Peg Bundy is reflective of virtuous American womanhood; that "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?" is educational television.

I am ashamed and embarrassed that according to a survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, 70 percent of the parents surveyed regard "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?" as educational television.

I regret to say that the sorry state of television is becoming the sorry state of America: 59 percent of Americans can name the three Stooges, but only 17 percent of the American people can name three Supreme Court Justices; only about 50 percent of the American people could identify the Vice President of the United States, but 95 percent could identify Homer, Bart, and Marge Simpson.

Three years ago, I came to this floor to express my shock and utter amazement at the details of a story in Time magazine entitled, "Everything Your Children Already Know About Sex." The story told how our children are learning their sexual values from television programs like "Dawson's Creek," which boasted of a character who lost her virginity at the age of 12 while drunk. There was "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" in which a male vampire turned bad after having sex with 17-year-old Buffy.

"Why are we letting our kids watch this morally degrading, thoroughly demeaning, junk on the airwaves?" I asked.

But from that low point, television has only continued to degenerate. It seems that many television programs are busily intent on answering the question, "how low can you go?" with the fare that they put before us.

The land, the society, the country that once produced the works of James Fenimore Cooper, Herman Melville, and Nathaniel Hawthorne, now gives us the works of Howard Stern and Jerry Springer. No wonder the late Steve Allen, a pioneer in the television industry, complained that television had become a "moral sewer."

When I think of television today, I seriously wonder whether Charles Darwin's theory of evolution is being stood on its head by popular culture. Evolution implies progress. Going from the musical accomplishments of Beethoven, Bach, and Mozart to the groans and moans of HBO's "Sex in the City" is anything but progress.

By the age of 18, the average American child will have viewed about

200,000 acts of violence on television. Before that child leaves elementary school, that child will have watched, on the average, about 20,000 murders and more than 80,000 other assaults. This means that during their most formative years, our children will witness approximately 100,000 acts of violence.

But the problem with television is more than the content of the programs alone. It is the nature of the beast—or should I say, the nature of the boob tube. There are 102 million TV homes in the USA; 42 percent of them have three or more sets. The average American spends four hours of each day—that amounts to two full months of each year—staring at the boob tube. Forty percent of the American people stare at the boob tube even while eating.

The negative impact of too much television is becoming more and more apparent as more and more studies have demonstrated: the link between television violence and real violence; the link between television and increasing obesity among young people; the link between television and declining interest in the fine arts; the link between television viewing and low academic performance. To put it bluntly, Mr. President, television is helping to create a morally irresponsible, overweight, lazy, violent, and ill-informed society.

Mr. President, this week, April 23–29, is national "TV Turnoff Week." Turn it off! Let's have more turnoff weeks; make it 52 weeks of the year, national "TV Turnoff Week." This is an effort sponsored by the TV-Turnoff Network, a grass-roots organization that has organized thousands of schools, clubs, community organizations, and religious groups to get the American people to turn off or limit their television viewing for one week to discover that there is actually life beyond the boob tube. The group has won the support and endorsements of dozens of powerful organizations, such as the American Medical Association. They have certainly won my support and my hearty endorsement. Hallelujah! Turn off that TV.

The organization's motto is, "Turn off TV. Turn on life." Their point is well taken. Life should be more rewarding and interesting than sitting in front of a box and becoming mesmerized with morally degrading, mind-numbing nonsense. That is what it is.

Instead of sitting in front of the television for 4 hours a day, get some exercise! Get out-of-doors. Go for a walk, a hike, a bike ride, or swim. It will be far better for your health.

Instead of sitting in front of the television for 4 hours a day, read a good book! Read Emerson's Essays, Carlyle's "History of the French Revolution," read history, read the Bible, read Milton's "Paradise Lost, Paradise Regained." Read "Robinson Crusoe."